

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:336

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001

PAKISTANI AFGHANI HINDU FAMILIES LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Pakistani and Afghanistani Hindu families have been staying in India for many years on long term visas;
- (b) if so, the total number of such people from the two countries, respectively;
- (c) whether they have applied for Indian citizenship because of hostile atmosphere and religious discrimination in respective countries; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the details of action taken, if any, in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

- (a)&(b): As on 30.6.2001, a total of 22365 Pak nationals and as on 31.12.2000, a total of 19761 Afghan nationals were staying in India on long term basis. The figures are not separately maintained community-wise.
- (c): Such Pakistani and Afghan nationals are applying for Indian citizenship to the State Government concerned who process them and forward them to the Central Government with their recommendation.
- (d): On receipt of such citizenship applications from the State Government with its recommendation, the Central Government grants citizenship to such of those persons who are found to be eligible under the relevant rules and regulations.